

Dealing with Unreasonable People

Dr. David Shaw

In every conflict, realize that there is a high likelihood that others will harden their hearts and refuse reconciliation. There are two things you must do to prepare for this:

1. Remember that God does not measure success in terms of results but in terms of faithful obedience. You cannot force or control the behavior of another.
2. Resolve that you will not give up on finding a Biblical solution. If a dispute is not easily resolved, the temptation is to throw your hands up in the air and walk away.

Walking away is not always bad if the battle is accelerating, but a Christian should never close the Bible. The following things are always right and good:

1. Control your tongue (Ephesians 4:29)
2. Seek godly counsel. One of the positive things about this course of action is that it requires that you continue to pursue relationship.
3. Keep doing what is right (1 Peter 2:12; 3:15,16)
4. Recognize your limits and don't try to exceed what is reasonable
5. Remember that the ultimate weapon is deliberate, focused love.